



**WORLD ANTI-CORRUPTION CONFERENCE-REPORT**  
**“Towards a Corrupt-Free Future: Strengthening Global Governance Together”**  
**16 November 2023 | Royal Kuningan Hotel, Jakarta**

## **ABOUT WORLD ANTI-CORRUPTION CONFERENCE**

The World Anti-Corruption Conference (WACC) represents a significant and commendable initiative aimed at tackling corruption on a global scale. This international platform is dedicated to the crucial goals of promoting transparency, accountability, and good governance across nations. By convening diverse stakeholders, including policymakers, experts, civil society representatives, and business leaders, WACC fosters an environment for collaborative efforts, the exchange of best practices, and strategic discussions to develop and implement effective anti-corruption measures worldwide.

The conferences serve as pivotal events where thought leaders can unite, share insights, and work collectively towards building a more transparent and accountable global community.

## **ABOUT ISI**

The International Strategy Institute (ISI) is a not-for-profit organisation that helps connect governments and businesses across Asia and the world. We stand for universal ethical business values such as: equality, transparency, fair trade, and sustainable development. Our dialogues, research and networking platforms, are designed to drive economic growth in the region. We aim to,

1. Build platforms for regional dialogue and networking opportunities that allow businesses, industry captains and governments to come together to drive economic growth of the region;
2. Provide timely research to keep our members and governments informed and updated on global trade and political issues that may have an impact on their operations;
3. Match businesses to the right investors- to ensure that the companies are paired with the right strategic investment partner

## **VISION AND MISSION**

International Strategy Institute (ISI) aims to be the leading regional connector and networking platform for governments and businesses across Asia and the Pacific. Through our networking events, conferences, and rigorous research publications, we hope to promote a robust Asian business environment that is strategic, inclusive, innovative and sustainable.

## **Opening Remarks**

**Datuk Seri Shamshun Baharin Mohd Jamil**

**Organizing Chairman of World Anti-Corruption Conference**

Datuk Seri Shamshun Baharin Mohd Jamil emphasises the pervasive and complex nature of corruption on a global scale. Corruption is portrayed as a significant challenge affecting social, political, and economic aspects across countries. The remarks underscore the seriousness of corruption due to its undermining of democratic institutions, rule of law, and adverse effects on economic development.

The speech recognizes the efforts of international organisations such as the World Bank Group, UNDP, and UNODC in combating corruption. Key international initiatives, including the "United Nations Convention Against Corruption" and the "United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime," are highlighted as crucial steps in addressing corruption globally. The damages caused by corruption, especially its negative impact on sustainable development and impoverished communities, are emphasised.

The UN Global Compact is mentioned as a substantial corporate sustainability initiative, calling on companies to adhere to principles related to human rights, labour, environment, and anti-corruption. The text stresses the importance of collective efforts involving governments, civil society, international bodies, and responsible media reporting to effectively combat corruption.

The Anti-Corruption Call to Action and the role of the private sector in promoting good governance are acknowledged. Specific actions taken by Malaysia, including Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's commitment to fighting corruption, are highlighted. The upcoming International Anti-Corruption Conference in Vilnius, Lithuania, and the planned sessions of the World Anti-Corruption Conference indicate ongoing global efforts to address corruption.

In conclusion, Datuk Seri Shamshun Baharin Mohd Jamil's opening remarks set the tone for the conference by emphasising the urgency of addressing corruption, the need for collaborative efforts, and the significance of initiatives at both national and global levels.

## **Opening Keynote Address**

**YBhg Tan Sri Dato' Sri Haji Tan Sri Bin Baki**

**Chief Commissioner of Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission**

In this impassioned address by Tan Sri Dato' Sri Haji Tan Sri Bin Baki, Chief Commissioner of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), he extends gratitude to the organisers and attendees of the World Anti-Corruption Conference (WACC). The theme, "Towards a Corrupt-Free Future: Strengthening Global Governance Together" is emphasised as vital in combating corruption's transnational nature. Drawing inspiration from Indonesia's resilient fight against corruption, Tan Sri underscores the importance of integrity as the foundation for robust governance.

Tan Sri employs humour to acknowledge the challenges in combating corruption, comparing it to a game of whack-a-mole. Despite the seriousness of the task, he assures the audience that collective efforts will create a force strong enough to make corruption tremble. The objectives of the conference, including raising awareness, sharing knowledge, and fostering collaboration, are likened to a comprehensive anti-corruption strategy.

The absorption of the National Centre for Governance, Integrity, and Anti-Corruption into MACC is highlighted as a significant step, demonstrating the government's commitment to addressing corruption issues head-on. Tan Sri urges active engagement and participation, emphasising the importance of unity and collaboration in the fight against corruption.

The essence of the conference, according to Tan Sri, lies in the exchange of knowledge and experiences, forming a tapestry of wisdom that transcends borders. He encourages attendees to be champions of change and cites a Malaysian/Indonesian quote, "Dimana bumi dipijak, di situ langit dijunjung" - "We carry the sky on our shoulders wherever we go.", emphasising the shared responsibility to shape a better future. The speech concludes with a call to action, urging participants to embrace the journey of learning, collaboration, and unyielding determination, with laughter as the best anti-corruption medicine. Tan Sri's message is clear: united, the global community can make history, paving the way towards a corrupt-free future.

## **PANEL DISCUSSION 1: LAW ENFORCEMENT ON PREVENTION AND PERSECUTION**

**H.E Kyaw Win Thein**

**Commissioner of Anti-Corruption Commission of Myanmar**

H.E Kyaw Win Thein highlighted Myanmar's long standing efforts against corruption since gaining independence in 1948. The Commissioner outlined the country's commitment to international standards, including the UNCAC, and detailed the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Commission and associated legal frameworks.

The presentation emphasised key departments within the commission, focusing on international affairs, prevention, and investigation. H.E Kyaw Win Thein provided insights into Myanmar's cyclical reviewing process under the UNCAC conventions and the continual enhancement of national strategies to combat corruption. He showcased comprehensive approaches, covering awareness, prevention, investigation, and international cooperation.

Initiatives such as the Corruption Prevention Unit and public feedback programs were highlighted, demonstrating transparency and public involvement. The presentation delved into educational efforts, from curriculum development to youth camps, aimed at instilling a strong anti-corruption ethos in Myanmar's future generations.

Insights into the investigation process, actions taken against individuals, and civil servants facing prosecution were shared. The Commissioner underscored international cooperation efforts, including agreements with neighbouring countries and Russia. The presentation concluded by addressing challenges ahead, particularly in legal and institutional frameworks, emphasising a proactive approach to overcome these challenges.

In summary, H.E Kyaw Win Thein's presentation provided a detailed overview of Myanmar's commitment, strategies, and actions in the ongoing fight against corruption, showcasing a holistic and collaborative approach.

**Mohammad Sukri HJ Ariffin (Senior Special Investigator of Corruption Prevention Section, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Brunei Darussalam)**

Mohammad Sukri HJ Ariffin highlighted Brunei's Anti-Corruption Bureau's (ACB) establishment in 1982 and its focus on investigating and preventing corruption. The presentation covered ACB's functions, with a particular emphasis on the Corruption Prevention Section's (CPS) work.

The CPS focuses on delivering anti-corruption awareness programs across various sectors. Sukri discussed the awareness programs conducted in 2022 and 2023, including talks delivered to government ministries, private sectors, and institutions. The Corruption Prevention Act was introduced, and training programs for participants from different sectors were initiated to enhance their ability to deliver anti-awareness programs.

Challenges faced by the CPS included the assessment and delivery of anti-corruption talks by Training of the Trainer (TOT) participants and limitations in technology during awareness programs. Sukri also addressed frequently asked questions regarding gift handling policies in private sectors and misconduct in public office cases.

In conclusion, Sukri emphasised the importance of a holistic approach to preventive measures against corruption, requiring support from political and public entities. He acknowledged the need to learn from other anti-corruption agencies and NGOs, emphasising the positive outreach to the public and the shared best practices for effective prevention strategies in Brunei.

## **Huri Kim**

### **Deputy Director of the Anti-Corruption Bureau at the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC) in South Korea**

Ms. Huri Kim highlights the significance of the conflict of interest prevention system for public servants in the context of anti-corruption efforts. She defines conflict of interest as a situation where a public servant's duties intersect with their private interests, illustrating it with an example of a public servant involved in permitting buildings and their conflict when a family member applies for a permit.

Kim outlines the Korean government's goals in enacting the Conflict of Interest Prevention Act, emphasising the need to control new types of corruption arising from public servants pursuing personal interests, such as favouritism in employing family members or retirees. The act, introduced in 2018, applies to around 2 million public servants across various institutions, including constitutional and central administration bodies.

The major provisions of the act include obligations for public servants to disclose information and restrictions to prevent them from pursuing private interests. These include reporting relationships with private interests, disclosing real estate ownership, revealing past private sector engagements, and disclosing involvement in private transactions. Violations of these obligations can result in disciplinary actions, fines, or imprisonment.

In conclusion, Kim stresses that while public conflict of interest is not corruption itself, it can lead to corruption and erode trust in the government. She sees the conflict of interest prevention system as a proactive measure to enhance the integrity of public servants and restore public trust in the government's fair performance.



## **Summary in Q&A Session**

Efforts to prevent corruption were discussed by the panellists. The emphasis was on the importance of prevention, considering corruption as difficult to trace once it occurs. Strategies include establishing strong laws and regulations, particularly in areas like public procurement. Raising awareness, especially at the political level, was highlighted, involving sharing principles, dignity, and codes of conduct. Infrastructure setup, education at various levels (from students to government officials), and proactive measures were considered essential for prevention.

In response to preventing corruption, the emphasis shifted from solely convicting offenders to stopping corruption at its roots. Brunei stressed the significance of prevention and education, believing that these measures, coupled with strong legislation, can effectively combat corruption. The Anti-Corruption Bureau in Brunei actively engages in anti-corruption awareness programs to prevent corruption before it occurs.

In addition, proactive measures were deemed crucial, particularly in cases related to politics. Public servants' high sensitivity to corruption was considered a proactive approach, leading to clearer and fairer decision-making. The suggested measures included comprehensive laws applicable to all public servants, fair rule abidance education, and educating the public to serve as watchdogs over the government's actions.

## **PANEL DISCUSSION 2: STRENGTHENING GLOBAL GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS**

**Dr. Laode M Syarif**  
**Executive Director of KEMITRAAN**

In his address, Dr. Laode M Syarif opts to discuss the global governance mechanism rather than delve into Indonesia's specific anti-corruption efforts. Stressing the cross-border nature of corruption, he highlights the need for law enforcement agencies and activists to be as organised and efficient as the corrupt individuals they are up against.

Dr. Syarif identifies legal frameworks like the United Convention Against Corruption and the Transnational Crimes Convention as foundations for international cooperation. However, he points out the difficulty in meaningful cooperation among states when corruption involves powerful individuals or organisations. Agency-to-agency cooperation emerges as crucial in his experience, emphasising its effectiveness in cases such as the investigation of 1MDB.

He underscores the importance of information-sharing mechanisms, starting from agency-to-agency communications and extending to mutual legal assistance, Interpol channels, financial intelligence, and even immigration networks. Dr. Syarif illustrates the effectiveness of direct communication between agencies, recounting instances where such collaboration proved instrumental in tracking suspects.

He outlines challenges in multi-jurisdictional investigations, including non-cooperative jurisdictions, legal system differences, and the rapid movement of sophisticated criminal activities. Dr. Syarif advocates for improved mutual legal assistance to keep up with the speed of modern criminal enterprises. He concludes by emphasising the need for law enforcement agencies and activists to be as organised and cooperative as the criminals they pursue, acknowledging the limitations of the current legal framework in addressing fast-moving crimes.

Dr. Laode M Syarif underscores the vital role of civil society groups in the fight against corruption. He shares a compelling anecdote about the history of the KPK building, emphasising that public pressure, manifested through student-led coin collections, played a pivotal role in influencing the parliament's decision to approve the establishment of the KPK building. Dr. Syarif urges against relying solely on politicians for anti-corruption efforts and emphasises the power of the people.

On an international level, he highlights the significance of coalitions such as the UNCAC coalition, which brings together organisations from various countries to collectively address corruption concerns. In conclusion, Dr. Syarif stresses the critical role of public participation and awareness in shaping a corruption-free future, thanking the international community for their collaboration and support.

**Mick Symons****Managing Director of Anti-Corruption Consultants Australia (ACCA)**

Mick Symons, in his comprehensive discussion, addresses the fundamental question of reconciling the tension between effective global governance and the preservation of national sovereignty and cultural diversity in the context of combating corruption. He uses the analogy of corruption as a river flowing through a country, either providing sustenance or causing destruction, emphasising the need for collaborative efforts to contain this "river."

He advocates for flexibility in implementing the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), highlighting its role as a guiding document rather than a strict set of instructions. He cautions against top-down approaches that impose anti-corruption measures without considering local socio-economic contexts and cultural sensitivities, emphasising the importance of adapting strategies to fit specific countries.

He introduces technological solutions such as blockchain and artificial intelligence as tools to restrict the capacity for corruption. He stresses the need for grassroots involvement, cultural synergy, and ethical considerations to build public trust and ensure effective anti-corruption efforts. He underscores the importance of principles of good governance and citizen participation while cautioning that without protection for whistleblowers, anti-corruption initiatives may falter.

Drawing on examples from India's "I Paid a Bribe" initiative and historical events like the Arab Spring, he highlights the power of the people in driving change and addressing corruption. He concludes by emphasising the collective responsibility to cultivate integrity, adapt to local realities, and collaborate across organisations and agencies to effectively combat corruption.

**Soh Kee Hean****Associate Professor in Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS)**

Soh Kee Hean addresses the vast topic of global governance with a focus on enhancing international cooperation in combating corruption, particularly in the context of cyberspace. He emphasises the dual elements of global governance: national anti-corruption systems as the baseline and international cooperation building upon these foundations. He underscores the intertwined nature of corruption with other crimes like human trafficking and scams, necessitating a comprehensive approach.

He delves into existing mechanisms for international cooperation, highlighting agency-to-agency collaboration, mutual legal aid, and extradition treaties. He emphasises the importance of addressing policy and legal differences among countries to facilitate effective collaboration. Regional and international initiatives, such as the UNODC's Globe Network, ASEAN PAC, ADB OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative, APEC Anti-Corruption Working Group, and G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group, are noted as crucial avenues for promoting dialogue and reducing hurdles to cooperation.

Soh Kee Hean then shifts the focus to the impact of technology on corruption and crime, stressing the interconnection between corruption and cybercrime. He discusses the challenges posed by encryption, cryptocurrencies, and other emerging technologies, emphasising the need for capacity building and cooperation among countries to effectively combat high-tech criminal activities. He concludes by citing a major money laundering case in Singapore, highlighting the international dimensions of crime and the significance of collaborative efforts in addressing global challenges.

In essence, he advocates for leveraging existing frameworks, strengthening agency collaboration, addressing legal barriers, and building capacity to effectively combat corruption, especially in the evolving landscape of cybercrime.

## Summary in Q&A Session

In the Q&A session, the discussion primarily focused on the role of e-government systems and digital platforms in promoting transparency, accountability, and combating corruption. Soh Kee Hean highlighted the positive impact of e-government in reducing corruption opportunities by streamlining processes and minimising manual interactions. He emphasised the importance of resilient and secure e-services to prevent IT security attacks and safeguard citizen services.

Dr. Laode M Syarif added that while technology is beneficial, it must be complemented by ethical individuals behind it. He shared an example of e-procurements in Indonesia, where initially, individuals manipulated the system by limiting bandwidth to favour certain applicants. This highlighted the need for ethical practices alongside technological advancements.

Another question addressed the issue of conflict of interest in Indonesia, particularly in political campaigns and fundraising. Dr. Laode acknowledged the existence of conflict of interest laws but pointed out the need for more comprehensive guidelines. Soh Kee Hean shared insights from Singapore, explaining rules governing political donations, party guidelines, and conflict of interest regulations at various levels, including ministerial and parliamentary conduct.

Lastly, a participant raised concerns about the lack of awareness and education about corruption in Indonesia. Dr. Laode agreed with the importance of anti-corruption education and mentioned existing programs conducted by the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) in schools and universities. He also highlighted the need for collaboration with educational institutions to incorporate anti-corruption topics into the curriculum.

In summary, the Q&A session highlighted the multifaceted nature of addressing corruption, emphasising the role of technology, ethical considerations, comprehensive guidelines, and anti-corruption education in fostering transparency and accountability.



## **PANEL DISCUSSION 3: PREVENTING THE MISUSE OF LAWS TO EVADE ACCOUNTABILITY**

**Mr. Haji Jais Abdul Karim**  
**President, Malaysia Corruption Watch (MCW)**

Mr. Haji Jais addressed the prevention of law misuse for evading accountability during Panel Discussion 3. He emphasized two key areas: holding legal professionals accountable and leveraging legal education. The talk underscored the need for enforcing stringent ethical standards to ensure accountability within the legal profession, emphasizing the importance of not just having ethics rules but rigorously enforcing them.

Whistleblower protection was highlighted as crucial to motivating legal professionals to report misconduct, focusing on protecting whistleblowers from retaliation. Independent oversight through bodies investigating legal misconduct was deemed essential, serving as a check and balance system to ensure fair investigations and prevent conflicts of interest.

Clear standards for reporting unethical behaviour and well-defined procedures, accessible channels, and protective measures were stressed in creating effective reporting mechanisms. Legal education, according to Mr. Karim, should incorporate ethics and integrity courses as core components, offering real-world insight through case studies, debates, and guest lectures.

The importance of experiential learning, particularly through case studies like the 1MDB case, was emphasized to allow students to practically apply ethical concepts. Pro bono work within legal education was deemed a potent tool for promoting community engagement, exposing students to ethical challenges and instilling a sense of social justice and responsibility.

In conclusion, Mr. Karim highlighted the paramount importance of preventing law misuse for justice and accountability. He stressed the need for impartial application of the law to create a just and equitable society. The talk called for collective action, collaboration, legal reforms, and educational efforts to address law misuse within the legal profession. Gratitude was expressed for the commitment to justice and accountability, emphasizing the continuous improvement required for building a more just and accountable society.

**Dr. Chanroeun Pa**  
**President, Cambodian Institute for Democracy (CID)**

Dr. Chanroeun Pa provided a unique and insightful perspective by weaving a Cambodian folktale into the conversation. Departing from the conventional presentation style, he opted to share a story rather than deliver a formal presentation.

Utilizing the origin of the tiger in Cambodian folklore, Dr. Chanroeun Pa emphasized the importance of collective action and working together to achieve the common good. This narrative served as a poignant reminder of the potential for corruption to arise when power is sought for personal pleasure, aligning with the well-known adage that "power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

Delving into the intricate human dimensions of corruption, Dr. Chanroeun Pa identified a triad of factors contributing to the misuse of laws: individual, institutional, and societal. On an individual level, he highlighted factors such as personal gains, the craving for power and control, and cultural norms. Institutional factors encompassed issues like weak institutions, conflicts of interest, and resource limitations in law enforcement. The societal dimension involved concerns related to inequality, marginalization, and the normalisation of corrupt practices.

Dr. Chanroeun Pa echoed shared strategies discussed by previous panellists, emphasizing the significance of civic education, especially anti-corruption education, in Southeast Asia. Expressing concern about the region's limited investment in civic education compared to countries like Japan, he underscored the foundational role it plays in fostering a clean and integrity-driven society. In his concluding remarks, Dr. Chanroeun Pa stressed that, for a sustained and effective fight against corruption, long-term investments in civic education are crucial to eradicating the social cancer of corruption from its roots.



**Mr. Eduardo Valera Bringas**  
**Former Deputy Director General, Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA)**

Mr. Eduardo Valera Bringas, engaged in a comprehensive exploration of corruption, with a specific focus on prevention. Leveraging nearly three decades of legal experience, he underscored the proactive nature of prevention, emphasizing the need to anticipate and forestall the misuse of laws to evade accountability. He shed light on the calculated preventive and curative tactics employed by corrupt individuals, showcasing their premeditated plans to exploit legal technicalities for case dismissal.

Shifting the discussion to constitutional provisions, Mr. Valera delved into the accountability of public officers and the impeachment process for impeachable officials. He dissected specific cases, such as the unconstitutional "Pork Barrel" and the disbursement acceleration program, emphasizing the imperative for a comprehensive approach that addresses corruption both politically and justly.

Additionally, he highlighted the establishment of the Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) and its strategic initiatives for investigating high-profile cases, signalling the government's commitment to combating corruption on various fronts.

Transitioning to his role at ARTA, Mr. Valera provided an in-depth exploration of the organization's functions in empowerment and enforcement under the Ease of Doing Business Law. He illustrated how ARTA actively addresses the misuse of law by agencies attempting to evade accountability, offering concrete examples and underscoring the pivotal role of justice, truth, and the rule of law in preventing such misconduct.

In conclusion, he emphasized the ongoing need for societal involvement, education, and advocacy as indispensable components in the relentless battle against corruption in the Philippines.

## **Summary in Q&A Session**

During the Q&A session, the first question was directed to Mr. Haji Jais Abdul Karim, the President of Malaysia Corruption Watch (MCW). The questioner expressed admiration for the vision of MCW's President and inquired about the existence of laws on whistleblowing protection in Malaysia.

Mr. Haji Jais Abdul Karim responded affirmatively, stating that Malaysia indeed has two main laws on whistleblowing. However, he highlighted a challenge where the identity of whistleblowers becomes known, questioning the integrity of enforcement agencies. He conveyed ongoing efforts to address this issue and advocated for anti-hopping laws, proposing that the public should have the authority to bring parliamentary members to court for anti-hopping, aiming to enhance accountability.

The second question, voiced by a representative of the young generation, sought opinions on the belief in society that stricter punishments for corruption lead to decreased corruption rates. Mr. Eduardo Valera Bringas responded, emphasizing that the effectiveness of penalties depends on the implementation of the law. He noted that corruption is fundamentally a problem of the heart, and even stringent penalties may be ineffective if the judiciary is corrupt. The focus, according to him, should be on addressing the root issue.

As the session concluded, Mr. Haji Jais Abdul Karim shared a metaphorical story about a small bird attempting to extinguish a fire with a small amount of water. He likened the story to the collective effort in the room, emphasizing the initiative and political will to combat corruption and build a better nation. The session concluded on a note of shared commitment to fighting corruption.

## **PANEL DISCUSSION 4: COMBATING GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION: ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CLEAN GOVERNANCE**

**Professor Vicha Mahakun**  
**President, Anti-Corruption Foundation of Thailand**

Professor Vicha Mahakun provided a comprehensive overview of his initiatives and insights to address corruption in Thailand. Professor Vicha, drawing on his experiences at Rangsit University School of Law and as a former National Anti-Corruption Commissioner of Thailand, highlighted the necessity for a cultural shift to effectively combat corruption. Inspired by Sir Jack Carter's assertion that real victory against corruption requires changes in community attitudes, Professor Vicha stressed the pivotal role of civil society and local community organizations, as mandated by the UNCAC in 2013.

A key element in his strategy is the transparent sharing of information, enabling the public to scrutinize government actions. Professor Vicha underscored the urgency of enacting laws that ensure the public's right to access information. To illustrate the importance of whistleblower protection, he referred to Korea's anti-celeb law, which safeguards individuals from repercussions when exposing corruption.

Ethical and moral training, according to Professor Vicha, plays a crucial role in fostering a consciousness against corruption. Initiatives such as the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Institute and the Thailand Anti-Corruption Academy demonstrate his commitment to educating and training officials at all levels, including those in civil society and mass media.

Professor Vicha elaborated on specific projects like the "Five Precepts Village," aligning with principles of human development to cultivate conscious communities. Additionally, he discussed efforts to influence policies and laws, such as the public information law, which mandates transparency in government information. The use of integrity pacts in state procurement, involving public observers to ensure fair practices, was highlighted as a proactive measure.

In conclusion, Professor Vicha emphasized a collaborative approach, bringing together individuals from diverse sectors, including academia and foundations, to effect cultural change and instil integrity at every level of Thai society. While acknowledging challenges in Thailand's system, he stressed the importance of collective action and shared ethical values to build a cleaner, more accountable future.

**Mr. Tsutomu Hiraishi**  
**Committee Officer, Anti-Bribery Committee Japan (ABCJ)**

Mr. Tsutomu Hiraishi shared insights into the activities and initiatives of ABCJ, emphasizing the importance of empowering businesses and individuals to combat corruption. Mr. Hiraishi highlighted their efforts to collaborate with international organizations and anti-corruption enforcement agencies, showcasing visits to agencies in Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The key objectives of ABCJ include empowering companies and individuals to resist corruption, shedding light on the opaque nature of bribery, and promoting collective actions among stakeholders. Mr. Hiraishi outlined the challenges faced by Japanese companies operating abroad, where they may encounter situations susceptible to bribery demands. To address this vulnerability, ABCJ aims to prepare companies for such scenarios.

A crucial aspect of ABCJ's work is to illuminate the "black box" of bribery by encouraging open discussions about corruption. Mr. Hiraishi acknowledged the cultural reluctance to discuss corruption openly, citing fear of repercussions and legal consequences. However, ABCJ aims to break this silence and foster transparency.

Mr. Hiraishi also discussed the importance of the judiciary in preventing corruption. He emphasized that clear and robust statutes, along with a well-established legal infrastructure, are essential for eradicating corruption. He highlighted the significance of unambiguous laws, abundant judicial precedents, and detailed court decisions to ensure fair and just outcomes.

Additionally, Mr. Hiraishi emphasized the importance of criticism by academics, evaluation and promotion of judges, self-discipline within bar associations, and ongoing legal studies and training programs for judges, attorneys, and lawyers. He advocated for reducing the room for discretion among government officials to minimize corruption risks.

In conclusion, Mr. Hiraishi stressed the need for a zero-tolerance approach to corruption within companies. He explained the internal guidelines and training programs implemented by ABCJ to instil a commitment to resisting corruption, even at the cost of potential profits. Overall, ABCJ's multifaceted approach aims to create a culture of transparency, accountability, and collective action to combat government corruption effectively.

## **Summary in Q&A Session**

During the Q&A session, the questioner shared his experience as an anti-bribery consultant for an Indonesian automotive company linked to Japan, highlighting concerns about corruption within the industry affecting market fairness.

He emphasized attempts in 2017 to promote anti-bribery measures to Japanese companies, only to face resistance due to the absence of regulations mandating ISO 37001 certification for anti-bribery management systems. He also raised the issue of upcoming regulations in 2022 for construction companies, where certification is deemed unnecessary, creating challenges in advocating for it.

In response, Mr. Tsutomu Hiraishi expressed gratitude for the comments and acknowledged the vulnerability of human beings to corrupt situations. He noted the positive transformation in Japanese companies over the past decade, with many adopting internal guidelines on anti-corruption. He highlighted that Japanese companies may not fully grasp the importance of third-party certification, suggesting that promoting certification to them could be beneficial.

The exchange emphasized the evolving stance of Japanese companies toward anti-corruption measures and the potential for collaboration with ABCJ to further promote awareness and compliance, particularly in regions like Indonesia facing challenges in the anti-bribery landscape.

## **Closing Remarks**

**C.Y. Cheah**

**Chairman of International Strategy Institute**

In his closing remarks, CY Cheah expresses deep appreciation and extends gratitude to the distinguished guests and sponsors who have contributed significantly to the success of the World Anti-Corruption Conference (WACC). He emphasises the significance of selecting Indonesia as the inaugural international host for WACC, recognizing the nation's steadfast dedication to the fight against corruption. Indonesia's commitment as a signatory to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) has provided a crucial platform for the exchange of invaluable experiences and insights among global participants.

Reflecting on the enriching panel discussions held during the conference, Mr. Cheah underscores the importance of topics such as law enforcement for prevention and prosecution, strengthening global governance mechanisms, and preventing the misuse of laws in combating government corruption to achieve clean governance. He commends the esteemed moderators and panellists for their enlightening contributions, which have added depth and substance to the global dialogue on corruption prevention and accountability.

Mr. Cheah expresses the hope that the discussions have left participants with a profound understanding and inspiration to take concrete actions against corruption in their respective regions. He extends special thanks to the closing keynote speaker, Vice Chairman Dr. Nurul Ghufon, highlighting the instrumental role of his presence and support in making the conference a resounding success.

In closing, Mr. Cheah announces that WACC will become an annual event, with the conference conducted in different countries each year to create awareness and foster a global alliance against corruption. He encourages all participants to carry forward the knowledge and insights gained during the conference, fostering a spirit of anti-corruption in their future endeavours. With a call for safe travels and a commitment to meet again, Mr. Cheah envisions a collective effort to build a more transparent, accountable, and corruption-free world.

**Dr Nurul Ghufron**

**Vice Chairman of the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) of the Republic of Indonesia**

Dr. Nurul Ghufron expressed gratitude for hosting the event. Representing Chairman H.E Firlil Bahuri, he highlighted the common goal of combating corruption for a corruption-free future. Emphasising the need for global collaboration, he called for joint efforts to strengthen global governance, promote transparency, and ensure accountability.

Dr. Ghufron identified three key points: First, the importance of international cooperation in addressing challenges related to cross-border corruption. He stressed the commitment to preventing jurisdictions from being safe havens for illicit assets and the necessity of timely responses in the investigation and prosecution process.

Second, he urged participants to use the conference as momentum to reaffirm their commitment to combating corruption and not providing safe havens for corrupt actors, fostering tangible regional cooperation.

Third, Dr. Ghufron underscored the significance of consolidating Beneficial Ownership (BO) information, advocating for transparency and rapid exchange of information in suspected corrupt practices. Integrating intelligence data would enhance transnational corruption investigations.

In conclusion, Dr. Ghufron called on participants to keep the conference's spirit alive, follow up on action plans, maintain communication and collaboration, and continue the fight against corruption with passion and determination. He stressed that corruption is unacceptable and harms both people and the planet, urging a collective stand against it. The speech ended with gratitude to the International Strategy Institute, panellists, and participants.